Tax on Inter-State consignment of Goods

2333. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a suitable legislation before Parliament for the levy of tax on inter-State consignment of goods; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) A conference of Chief Ministers held on 28th May, 1984 recommended, by consensus, different aspect of framing legislation for taxing inter-State consignment of goods consequent upon the Constitution (Forty-sixth Amendment) Act, 1982. As some of the issues involved are required to be sorted out, it has not yet been possible to take any decision.

Exemption of Excise Duty on Drugs

2334. SHRI N. E. BALRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the list of 41 drugs exempted from the excise duty in the Central Budget for 1986-87 does not include life-saving and essential drugs like anti-TB and anti-malarial drugs; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The 41 drugs exempted from excise duty in the Budget for 1986-87 include anti-TB, anti-diabetic, anti-dysentery, anti-amoebic, anti-helminthic, anti-biotic, anti-asthmatic and cardiovascular medicines.

(b) other anti-TB and anti-malarial drugs are already exempt from excise duty.

Observance of 1986 as the year of the Consumer by Banks

2335. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the banks to observe the year 1986 as the year of the consumer; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) In the meeting held by the Finance Minister with the Chief Executives of all public sector banks on 30th January, 1986, the year 1986 was declared by the Finance Minister as "The Year of the Customers" for the banks. With this end in view, the banks have taken measure to (i) bring about amongst their officers and staff, attitudinal changes in their responses to customers' need and (ii) work for greater interaction between the officials and customers to promote cordiality amongst them.

As a further step, all public sector banks have designated 15th of each month (or if 15th is a holiday then the next working day) as 'Customer Day' in Banks. For this purpose, all Chairmen and Managing Directors/ Executive Directors/Zonal Managers/ Regional Managers/Branch Managers will make themselves available at their headquarters between 3 PM to 5 PM to meet customers to assess the quality of their banks' customers service and attend to specific complaints brought to their notice. This interface with the customers would be in addition to the arrangements already made by the banks for increased contact with their customers.